

Remarks

Entry of the above amendments is requested for the purpose of distinguishing the claimed invention from the references cited in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement.

With reference to the documents (Doc. #1 and Doc. #2) cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by the current claims is neither anticipated by, nor obvious over, the information contained in these disclosures for the following reasons. Doc. 1 is an undated and unsigned statement describing the Ball Suppression function incorporated into an Eberle Design Inc product on sale since 1999. Doc. #2 is a copy of a product operation manual having an Addendum describing the Ball Suppression Operation. Assuming *arguendo* that the information in Docs. #2 and 2 is accurate and verifiable, it does not render claims 1-12 as presently amended unpatentable.

First, the Ball Suppression Operation requires that all of the control signals in both channels be inactive before a Red Fail Fault is detected. Both system claim 1 and method claim 6 require that a Red Fail Fault be detected when all of the signals in the parent channel and some (but not necessarily all) of the signals

in the child channel are inactive. Consequently, independent claims 1 and 6, and dependent claims 2-5 and 7-12, are patentable over the disclosures of Docs. #1 and 2 for this reason alone.

In addition, claims 1 and 6 are further limited by the recitation of selectively establishing a parent channel-child channel relationship between selected ones of the channels for the purpose of Red Fail fault testing. This permits the assignment of the parent-child channel relationships to any of the input channels. In the Ball Suppression Operation, only certain fixed ones of the input channels can have a parent-child relationship, and these are pre-assigned at the factory without the functional capability of changing parent-child relationships to involve other channels. In Doc. #2, for example, it is clearly stated that only channels 1 and 9, and 5 and 11, are paired in the Ball Suppression Operation when Option Switch #7 is ON; while only channels 3 and 10, and 7 and 12, are paired in the Ball Suppression Operation when Option Switch #8 is ON. In contrast, the claimed invention permits the selection of which channels are assigned the parent-child relation allowing selection from among all of the input channels; enables the same two channels to have both a parent-child and a child-parent relationship; and permits any channel to have several parent-child relationships with any of the input channels, thus providing great flexibility in configuring an intersection.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case for issue.

If deemed useful in any further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 702-270-8853.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren P. Kujawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Warren P. Kujawa Reg. No. 25142